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KISS AND MAKEUP

SINGER CARLY RAE JEPSEN DISHES ON SPIN THE BOTTLE AND HER GO-TO LOOK

PAGE 18



SASKATOON

metro

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Thursday, December 20, 2012



News
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Drive it like Dressler

A SIAST student's Madden 08 PC mod features painstaking details for all eight CFL teams — right down to watermelon heads in the stands for Riders fans PAGE 4

Light up their holidays

Classic and practical items like a collection of candles will please even the pickiest decorator on your gift list PAGE 19



He's out of this world!

Veteran astronaut Chris Hadfield blasts off into outer space, set to become the first Canadian to command the International Space Station PAGE 6



PAGES 10 & 11

MIA KORAB/METRO WORLD NEWS

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Crown agencies donate \$10 million to STARS

Medical emergencies.

Money will support air rescues in remote, rural areas of province



JANE CAULFIELD
jane.caulfield@metronews.ca

For the thousands of people who live and work in rural and remote areas in Saskatchewan, having limited access to emergency medical care can cost lives.

Which is why Saskatchewan's Crown corporations are teaming up to support the Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS) with a \$10-million commitment over five years.

"The government as a whole has committed to support STARS and the Crowns have crews working in rural and remote areas across the province, sometimes in hazardous conditions. We all have a stake in public safety and emergency response," said Crown Investments Corporation Minister Donna Harpauer in a press release.

The five-year commitment will see Crown Investments Corporation, SaskPower, Sas-



The Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service helicopter takes off in Saskatoon in October. CONTRIBUTED/STARS FOUNDATION

kEnergy, SaskTel and SGI each contributing \$2 million to the initiative — a commitment Rod Grantfoer, executive vice-president of the STARS Foundation, said will go a long way in ensuring the air rescue team can do their job.

"It's certainly gratifying to know that there is support for something so important in Saskatchewan," said Grantfoer.

Currently, the Ministry of Health provides \$10.5 million every year to STARS, covering about half of the organiza-

tion's annual operating costs — leaving STARS to fundraise the other half.

Grantfoer said contributions from Crown corporations will count for approximately 20 per cent of the amount they have to raise.

"We are just very pleased," he said. "It's a good thing for STARS and the province."

Since STARS launched in April the air-rescue team has flown more than 140 missions, providing care to those who need it across the province.

Food concessions

Airport wants local flavour as part of expansion project

The Saskatoon Airport Authority (SAA) has requested proposals for food and beverage concessions for its terminal expansion at the John G. Diefenbaker International Airport. But it says it wants some local

flavour alongside the usual chains for those arriving in Saskatoon.

Maxine Montgomery, manager of customer and terminal services with the SAA, said it has reached out to restaurants in the city about having a location in the airport's new expansion.

"We would like to see something that has a local flavour, something that is recognizable as this is the

restaurant you will find in Saskatoon," said Montgomery. "We're what we call an (origin and destination) airport — people either leave from here or they arrive here. We're not a hub."

Montgomery wouldn't provide information about which restaurants the SAA has reached out to, but said it hopes the restaurant will take the form of a casual sit-in venue.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Two-vehicle collision

Man dies from injuries in crash

A 53-year-old man died in hospital Wednesday afternoon after a crash at Circle Drive and 8th Street. The crash involved a semi-trailer and a car near the off-ramp to 8th Street at approximately 2:30 p.m. Saskatoon police are investigating the incident. METRO

Probation breach

No jail time for First Nation chief

The chief of the Red Pheasant First Nation community who pleaded guilty to violating a probation order not to drink has escaped jail time. Instead, a judge has given a four-month conditional sentence to Stewart Cody Baptiste.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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1 NEWS

Game mod offers fans chance to play as favourite CFL teams

Modified Madden.

Student has modified American game with Canadian jerseys, fans, sponsors and trophy



**JEFF
MACKEY**
jeff.mackey@metronews.ca

Armchair quarterbacks now have the power to take the Riders to the Grey Cup, although only in virtual capacity.

While there are no official plans to produce a CFL video game, fans can now play the next best thing: a Madden '08 PC modification that has all eight CFL teams.

Nelson Hackewich is a new media communications student at SIAST in Regina and he has been working on this mod to Madden 08 since 2007.

"You will see different little things for the fans of different teams in the stands," he said. "We have put the watermelon heads in the stands for Riders fans."

Hackewich painstakingly added all the CFL jerseys,

Realistic

"As far as the look goes, it is as real as it is going to get right now."

Nelson Hackewich, designer of the CFL-modified version on Madden 08

created up-to-date CFL rosters with player-specific attributes, designed stadiums similar to the genuine articles, added league sponsors to the fields, and even fashioned a Grey Cup ring players can compete for.

"That is something I have always done in Madden: create the teams," said Hackewich. "Over the years, as the technology got better, I learned more and more about getting the textures from the games, and it has evolved into what we have here today."

But how close is this to the real deal?

"As far as the look goes, it is as real as it is going to get right now," said Hackewich. "But as far as the rules go, it is still an NFL-sized field, there is still four downs and the field goal posts are still at the back of the end zone."



A virtual Weston Dressler takes his spot at the line of scrimmage in a virtual Mosaic Stadium in this screen shot from the CFL mod to Madden 08 for the PC.
NELSON HACKEWICH/CONTRIBUTED

Flash mobs to engage protesters against Bill C-45



Perry Bellegarde, chief of the Federation of the Saskatchewan Indian Nations, speaks to a packed room Dec. 10 at one of the initial Idle No More rallies.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Saskatoon's Midtown Plaza could be a very busy place on Thursday night.

A flash-mob round dance scheduled for 7 p.m. may bring more than 600 people to the downtown mall as part of the nationwide Idle No More protests aimed at the federal government's Bill C-45.

Supporters say they are upset about the effects of the Harper government's policies on aboriginal communities. They want First Nations to be recognized as sovereign stakeholders in decisions affecting the coun-

try's land and resources.

With flash-mob round dances already occurring in Regina and Edmonton, some experts say the flash mob has become one of the more effective forms of protest.

Matthew Carroll, campaigns director with Leadnow, a nationwide pro-democracy group, said that, compared to traditional methods of protest, the flash mob is a more engaging and welcoming way to spread a message.

"It's fun, it's social and it gets people raising awareness about important issues

Attendees, maybe

600

The Facebook page for the event suggests more than 600 people will attend protests at Midtown Plaza.

in a way that's kind of approachable," said Carroll.

"You often get a sense that protests could be a hard thing for people to latch onto; I think a lot more people feel they can take part in a flash mob."

Chad Jones, CEO of lo-

cal app developer College-Mobile said he feels protests in the form of flash mobs are on the rise.

"Flash mobs are an invention that came out of social media, and as long as social media remains popular, I think flash mobs will be popular. So I don't think they're going away any time soon," said Jones. "If anything, it will probably become more mainstream and it will happen more often over time — at least for a little while."

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO SASKATOON
WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

SGI Safe Ride

New app helps you get home safe

SGI is making getting a safe ride home a little easier with a new mobile app.

The app is GPS controlled and allows users to find the closest bus route, access taxi and designated-driver companies and assign personal

designated-driver contacts.

According to SGI, alcohol is the biggest contributing factor to fatal collisions in Saskatchewan. To date, there have been 1,055 collisions this year, resulting in 364 injuries and 48 deaths.

The free app, called SGI Safe Ride, is available on iPhone, BlackBerry and Android phones.

ALYSSA McDONALD/METRO

West-central Sask.

School bus goes off road after hitting snow bank

A student and one adult suffered minor injuries when the school bus they were on struck a snow bank and went off a road in west-central

Saskatchewan.

The accident happened just after 8 a.m. Wednesday on a gravel road a few kilometres southeast of Battleford.

RCMP say the south-bound bus remained upright after the accident.

The vehicle was carrying two adults and twelve students at the time.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

\$430M US

Cameco to buy Australian uranium deposits

Saskatoon-based Cameco has completed a deal to buy one of Australia's largest undeveloped uranium deposits from BHP Billiton.

The purchase totals \$430

million US.

The company says its next move is to conduct a full review and develop a plan for the property, about 650 kilometres northeast of Perth.

It also says the property has a near-surface deposit that can be reached with open-pit mining techniques.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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He's the Cosmo Canuck! Hadfield blasts into space

Up, up and away. 'It's a great day for Canada,' says our Governor General after successful launch from Kazakhstan

Now call him Cosmo Chris.

Chris Hadfield has successfully blasted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

He was on his way Wednesday on a mission to become the first Canadian to command the International Space Station.

Hadfield is travelling to the space station on board a Russian Soyuz capsule for a five-month visit to the giant orbiting space lab.

He is sharing the trip to the space station with NASA astronaut Tom Marshburn and Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko. They're expected to arrive Friday.

Gov. Gen. David Johnston called Hadfield's launch "a great day for Canada, a great day for the world of discovery and innovation."

He joined the families of



No sleeping, please — you're spacemen. Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko, left, U.S. astronaut Tom Marshburn and Canada's Chris Hadfield have put on their spacesuits at the Baikonur Cosmodrome and play a little snoozing joke on the media. Next stop: The International Space Station.

SHAMIL ZHUMATOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian Space Agency employees at its HQ south of Montreal to watch the event on a giant TV screen.

"We're so proud that Chris Hadfield now is up in space — the first Canadian to be

commanding the space station in March," he said.

"And now we simply pray for a continued safe mission and a safe return."

During his stay, Hadfield, an avid guitar player, plans to

do some strumming to help him deal with homesickness.

The 53-year-old space veteran will also be involved with more than 130 experiments, including Micro-flow, a Canadian blood-sampling

experiment which he compared to a hospital in a box.

Hadfield will become the first Canadian to command the space station during the second half of his mission.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IQ tests too simple: Researcher

A new study released Wednesday suggests IQ tests aren't all they're cracked up to be.

"I think IQ tests are a massive over-simplification," said Adam Hampshire, one-half of the team of researchers who debunked the IQ myth.

Hampshire and his partner Adrian Owen, from Western University's Brain and Mind Institute, created a new test that was able to gauge a person's intelligence in a variety of streams.

METRO IN LONDON, ONT.

A new-year bow tie awaits Ikea monkey

Yasmin Nakhuda has everything ready for her little monkey to come home:

A tiny Santa Claus suit for Christmas, a bow tie for New Year's and a cottage rented in Kawartha Lakes, where it's not yet illegal to own a monkey.

On Thursday she'll be asking a court to return Darwin swiftly.

On Dec. 9, Darwin was found wandering in a north Toronto Ikea parking lot.

A photo of him in a faux-shearling coat soon made its way to Twitter and from there spread around the world.

It even landed Darwin a nod from The Guardian newspaper in its 10 fashion moments of the year.

Bylaw officials asked Nakhuda to surrender the animal and fined her \$240 under the Toronto Municipal Code for keeping a prohibited animal.

The opposing side in her court case is requesting an adjournment, something that would give Kawartha Lakes time to enact an exotic-animals ban that is already



Yasmin Nakhuda leads a protest Wednesday at a Toronto Animal Services office in a bid to get her pet monkey Darwin back. Darwin became an international viral sensation after being found in an Ikea parking lot.

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

in the pipeline.

Speaking outside a Toronto Animal Services location Wednesday, Nakhuda talked about the trauma.

"Unless you've owned a primate, you cannot understand what it is to lose one," said Nakhuda, who works as a real-estate lawyer.

About 30 supporters,

many friends and family members, attended a protest Wednesday at the Toronto Animal Services location.

Nakhuda's children — 16-year-old Omar and 12-year-old Misha — held signs that featured a picture of Darwin behind bars and read: "Free Darwin now!"

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Top court rules

Big unions lose fight for \$28B

The Supreme Court of Canada says several major public unions are not entitled to a \$28-billion pension surplus the government hived off to help pay down the deficit.

The unanimous high court ruled 9-0 that the government is not obliged to return funds to the public-sector unions.

The unions argued the government improperly took their money from the mandatory, defined-benefit plans.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Youth now key

Feds make point on immigration

The points system used to decide who can immigrate to Canada is getting a makeover.

The new judging criteria for the federal skilled-worker program will award more points to younger immigrants and change the way the government looks at work experience and education.

The way points are allocated for language ability will also change.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Recovering

Snowboarder lost for two days

A 33-year-old snowboarder from Ottawa is recovering after being rescued from a wilderness area north of Vancouver where he was stranded for two days.

Sebastien Boucher got lost Sunday after straying out of bounds near the Cypress Mountain ski area.

Initial attempts to find him were hampered by poor weather and the risk of avalanches.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/NEWS 1130/CKNW

We're not so jolly

Happy? You're in Latin America

The world's happiest people aren't in Qatar, the richest country by most measures. They aren't in Japan, the nation with the highest life expectancy. Canada doesn't make the top 10.

A poll released Wednesday of nearly 150,000 people around the world says seven of the world's 10 countries with the most upbeat attitudes are in Latin America.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Merry Pringles!



India incensed over gang rape on bus

Delhi. Protesters, politicians demand action after attacks shock a nation

The hours-long gang rape and near-fatal beating of a 23-year-old student on a bus in New Delhi triggered outrage and anger across India on Wednesday as protesters demanded action from authorities who have long ignored persistent violence and harassment against women.

In the streets and in Parliament, calls rose for stringent and swift punishment against those who attack women, including a proposal to make rapists eligible for the death penalty. As the calls for action grew louder, two more gang rapes were reported, including one in which the 10-year-old victim was killed.

Thousands of demonstrators clogged the streets in front of New Delhi's police

headquarters, protested near Parliament and rallied outside a major university. Angry university students set up roadblocks across the city, causing massive traffic jams.

Hundreds rallied outside the home of the city's top elected official before police dispersed them with water cannons, a move that earned further condemnation from opposition leaders, who accused the government of being insensitive.

"We want to jolt people awake from the cozy comfort of their cars. We want people to feel the pain of what women go through every day," said Aditi Roy, a Delhi University student.

As protests raged in cities across India, at least two girls were gang-raped, with one of them killed.

Police on Wednesday fished out the body of a 10-year-old girl from a canal in Bihar state's Saharsa district. Police superintendent Ajit Kumar Satyarthi said the



An Indian woman shouts slogans outside the Delhi police headquarters during Wednesday's protest in New Delhi following the rape of a 23-year-old student. ALTAQ QADRI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

girl had been gang-raped and killed and her body dumped in the canal. Police were investigating and a breakthrough was expected soon, Satyarthi said.

The 23-year-old victim lay in critical condition in the

hospital with severe internal injuries, doctors said.

Police said six men raped the woman and savagely beat her and her companion with iron rods on a bus driving around the city — passing through several police check-

points — before stripping them and dumping them on the side of the road on Sunday night.

Delhi police chief Neeraj Kumar said four men have been arrested and a search was underway for the other two.

Sonia Gandhi, head of the ruling Congress Party, visited the victim, promised swift action against the perpetrators and called for police to be trained to deal with crimes against women.

In New Delhi and across India, the outpouring of anger is unusual in a country where attacks against women are rarely prosecuted.

Opposition politicians shouted slogans and protested outside Parliament and called for making rape a capital crime. Cutting across party affiliations, lawmakers demanded the government announce a plan to safeguard women in the city.

Analysts say crimes against women are on the rise as

Yet another attack

On the same day of the protests, a young girl in India's Banka district of Bihar was allegedly raped by four men.

- The 14-year-old was in critical condition after the attack, a district education officer said.
- The suspected rapists have been identified, but police have yet to make any arrests.

more young women leave their homes to join the workforce in India's booming economy, even as deep-rooted social attitudes that women are inferior remain unchanged.

Many families look down on women, viewing the girl child as a burden that forces them to pay a huge dowry to marry her off.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pedophile probe absolves BBC bosses of coverup

Institutional chaos and confusion — but not a coverup — were to blame for the BBC's disastrous handling of pedophilia allegations involving one of its best-known children's television personalities, an internal review found on Wednesday.

The review, carried out by former Sky News boss Nick Pollard, absolved BBC executives of trying to bury a potentially embarrassing story, saying that weak management and poor leadership were to blame for the fact that a planned exposé of the late TV star Jimmy Savile never aired on the flagship Newsnight program.

When the rival ITV network broadcast a similar exposé in October about Savile, who died in 2011 at the age of 84, the BBC came under fire for both harbouring an alleged serial sex abuser for decades and killing its own story about him.

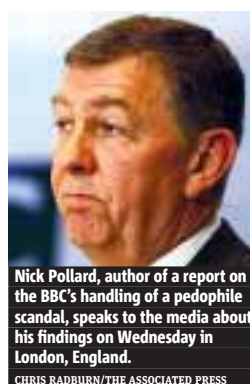
"The Newsnight investigators got the story right," Pollard said. "They had found clear and compelling evidence that Jimmy Savile was a pedophile."

He said the decision by news executives to scrap the item "was clearly flawed, and the way it was taken was wrong, though I believe it was taken in good faith."

The review said the BBC was thrown into disarray when allegations that Savile was a serial sexual predator were made public, taking more than a month to get a handle on the situation.

The scandal has since metastasized, tainting the reputation of the BBC. It also forced the resignation of the BBC's new director-general, George Entwistle, and raised questions about its former leader, Mark Thompson, who has since become chief executive at The New York Times.

The BBC's decision to cancel its initial investigation in



Nick Pollard, author of a report on the BBC's handling of a pedophile scandal, speaks to the media about his findings on Wednesday in London, England. CHRIS RADBURN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

December 2011 over the objections of its reporters was one of the scandal's most embarrassing episodes, especially as it preceded a glowing tribute to Savile's career broadcast the same month. The timing and the circumstances of the cancellation raised questions about whether senior executives tried to bury the story to protect the corporation's reputation.

The report published Wednesday absolved the executives of that — the most serious — charge. The review cost the BBC \$3.3 million.

The report does not appear

to challenge Thompson's account of his role in the scandal — and Chris Patten, head of the BBC Trust, said after the review was published that he has "no reason at all for disbelieving" the former director-general.

Since the ITV documentary aired, scores of women have come forward, alleging they were abused by Savile when they were underage, sometimes in BBC dressing rooms. Police say Savile is a suspect in 199 crimes recorded so far, including dozens of cases of rape.

Two additional internal inquiries are still in the works.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





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How will you spend your last night on Earth?



"I wouldn't do anything differently. I just don't see the point. I'm not a crazy guy to begin with."

Emaan Kheraj, Vancouver



"I would probably spend it with my family and friends. I don't really know what else to say."

Diane Leng, Calgary



"I can't say what I'd really do because it's not appropriate to print in a newspaper."

Luke Kellener, Fernie, B.C./Perth, Ont.



"I'm a space fan, so I would like to ... look up at the outer world with (my son) one last time."

Barry Obondo, Edmonton



"I would get a plane to Australia though I probably wouldn't get there in 24 hours."

Elaine Fitzpatrick, Saskatoon



"I would live it up with all my friends and family and I wouldn't even think about tomorrow."

Jaci Youngson, Regina

Doom awaits us — later

2012 prophecy. The world won't end on Dec. 21, experts say, but there are plenty of ways Earth could go



KIERON MONKS

Metro World News in London

It was fun while it lasted, but it seems the world is ending. A growing clamour, based on the Mayan calendar, insists that Dec. 21, 2012, will mark the death of humanity. Even NASA has received thousands of terrified messages from the public.

But the calendar has been misinterpreted, say experts, who claim the "end" refers only to the end of a cycle. The Mayan calendar is split into 394-year "baktuns," and 2012 will see a new era.

"The 13th Baktun will end on Dec. 21, and another will start," says Ines Valera-Silva, a researcher in Mayan studies at Loughborough University in the U.K. "That's all. A catastrophe has never been predicted."

Mayans today have stopped



Who'll look the fool if Earth does end? Worshippers gather at Kukulkan temple at Chichén Itzá, Mexico. CUARTOSCURO

using the old calendar, Valera-Silva adds. "There is no reason to interpret this as a prophecy, but obviously some people are excited by it."

Hollywood movies and social media have driven the debate on exactly how the world will end. One Facebook page with 13,000 fans suggests it will come from a cosmic

event.

"The biggest threat is a comet impact," says Benny Peiser, catastrophe specialist and founder of climate policy network CCNet. "It happens every few million years and could happen at any time. Astronomers are scanning the sky for potential risks, and we need to solve the problem for good by

developing the technology to deflect asteroids."

More speculators believe a black hole will open and swallow us all. The fear led to widespread criticism of scientists working on the Large Hadron Collider, rumoured to be capable of producing a black hole.

Humankind may not need

cosmic forces to bring down Armageddon. The Cold War may be over, but the number of nuclear nations has grown swiftly — and with it, the risk of a "final war."

"It's no secret how to make the weapons and it's not hard to think of people crazy enough to use them," says Alan Robock, environmental scientist at Rutgers University and author of *Nuclear Winter Revisited*.

Threat of terrorism aside, Robock sees a risk in regional feuds between nuclear powers India and Pakistan or Israel and Iran.

Environmentalists point to rising sea levels and the threat of a supervolcano, while nanotechnology may yet produce microorganisms that kill us from the inside.

The endless possibilities explain the interest in bookmaker William Hill's offer of 1,000,000-to-1 on the world ending.

"Some may say it is a bet we can never lose, for the obvious reason that we won't be here to pay out should it happen," spokesman Graham Sharpe says, but several bets have already been placed.

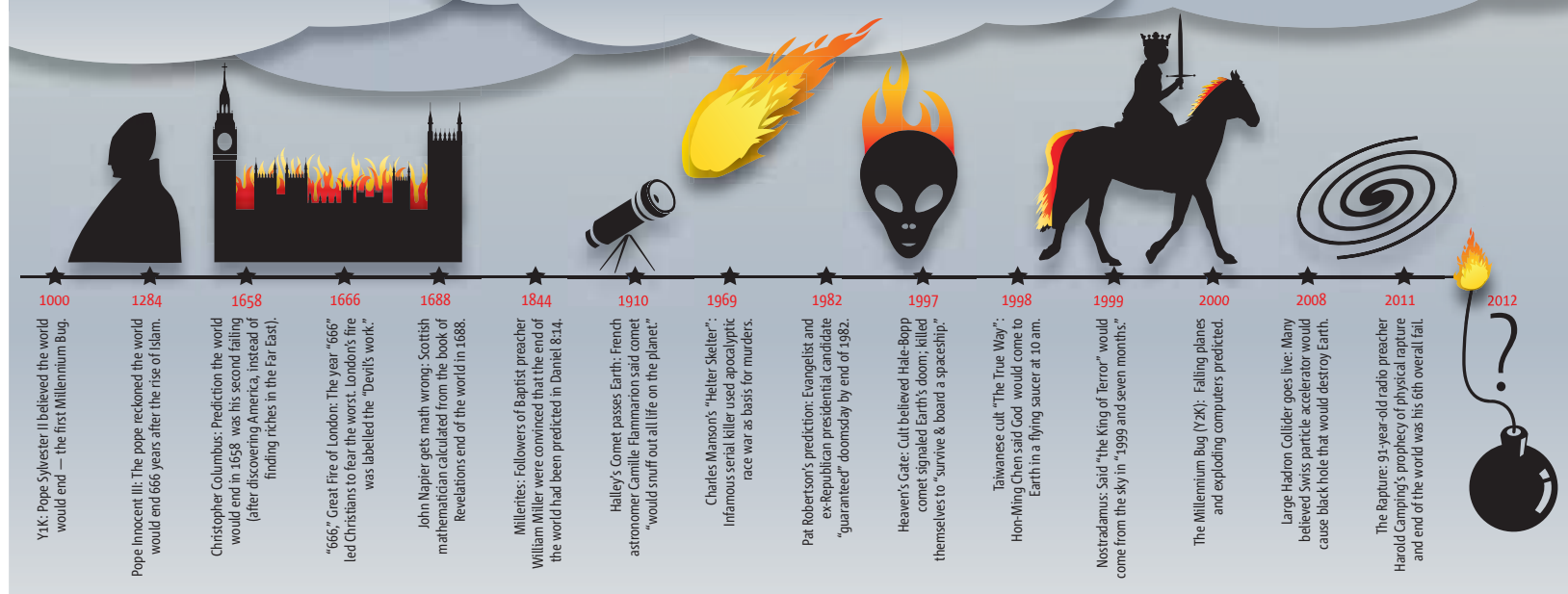
Apocalypse options

- **Comet strike.** Still the most immediate threat; likely to be sudden. Fear factor: 7/10
- **Nuclear war.** An ever-present threat and probably more likely than world peace. FF: 6/10
- **Global warming.** The rising sea is already threatening some islands. FF: 4/10
- **Disease pandemic.** Could happen but unlikely to catch us by surprise. FF: 2/10
- **Sun burnout.** A sure thing but will be in 4.5 billion years' time. FF: 0/10



Bedtime reading: This Mayan manuscript suggests an end to a calendar cycle. GETTY IMAGES

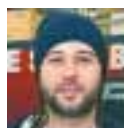
END OF THE WORLD: TIMELINE OF FAILED PREDICTIONS





"Disney World.... Where else would you rather be but the happiest place on Earth?"

Chris Hancock, Winnipeg



"I already live every day like it's the last. So, (I'd) just carry on. I don't make future plans."

Andrew Goddard, London, Ont.



"Blissfully ignorant that it is the last day on Earth. I just would not want to be aware."

Candice McCavitt, Toronto



"I would make a list of everyone in my life that I had something important to say to."

Kirk Raybould, Toronto



"I would break all the laws, all the rules. No drugs, no alcohol: It's not something you need at the end."

Fred Labonte, Ottawa



"I'd probably buy unlimited sushi ... drink a lot and not worry about the hangover the next day."

Leanne Stevens, Halifax



ERIKA PADRÓN
Metro World News in Mexico

José Natividad Ic Xec, a native Mayan living in Mérida, capital of Yucatán in Mexico, where the Mayan civilization once thrived, has dedicated his life to promoting his culture and tradition. Xec explains what the doomsday prophecy really means for his compatriots.

What does Dec. 21 mean to the Mayan people?

For Mayans living in Yucatán, this date means nothing. Like anyone else, we spend that day thinking about what we are going to eat, about our jobs or what the next few months will be like for us. This date was only conceived as a stage in a calendar, as Dec. 22 marks the end of 13 baktuns, (a baktun is a period of 394 years or 144,000 days). And so it's just the end of an era in a calendar.

So the end-of-the-world prophecy is all fantasy?

People speak of a revolution in human consciousness, a new light that will shine upon the world. Believers talk of some kind of transformation and will gather at the Mayan pyramids to perform some kind of ritual. But all of this is not attributed to the Maya; we really don't care about it — on the contrary, it makes us laugh. Our people know little about the



ancient Mayan Long Count calendar. The only thing we know is that the date Dec. 22 marks an end in the calendar, but people are using the date Dec. 21 because it is the solstice and thus a more memorable date.

Then why is the date such a big deal?

Experts claim that the 13th baktun is a good opportunity for people to make a profit out of those who believe. And if those faithful genuinely believe in it, they would be

frightened; they would look for a bunker or think about a plan of survival. So this end-of-the-world talk is only a bit of fun.

You use social networks to promote your culture. How

popular is Chilam Balam (Xec's blog based on the Mayan document allegedly containing prophecies)?

It's a concept that I started two years ago, first on Twitter and Facebook, then on a blog, which I hope will

continue to grow. On my website, I publish stories on Mayan culture and its characteristics.

Do you yourself have any plans to mark the Mayan event?

Yes, on Dec. 21 and 22, I will be doing live broadcasts from (ancient Mayan site) Chichén Itzá. I will be chatting to Mayans who live in the area. I want them to tell me about how they live. Perhaps they will perform some traditional dancing. I will also talk to other experts like myself who have worked their whole lives to promote Mayan culture. But for all this to happen, I need sponsors. But I'm aware that our old indigenous culture is not a big seller.

Doomsday industry still booming despite the lessons of the past

Are you done your apocalypse shopping yet? You could throw down \$30,000 on a space in a luxury underground bunker or a cheaper "survival kit" that can help you eat grass. Apocalypse literature is booming, with sales from the Left Behind book series worth almost \$1 billion.

It's a modern update of the paper "pardons" sold as insurance against judgment day in the Middle Ages. Many experts trace the birth of the apocalypse industry to the U.S. Millerite movement, when preacher William Miller launched a campaign to promote his vision of doomsday in the 1840s.

"Systematic commercialization first arose from fear of nuclear war in the 1960s, with companies building bomb



shelters," says Lorne Dawson, sociologist and author of *Prophetic Failure and Millennial Movements*. "That showed the business opportunity, and it continued with the surviv-

alist movement of the 1970s and the growing fear of an catastrophe."

The years 2000 and 2012 have revived the focus, and Dawson believes it taps into a

basic human desire. "Simple psychology shows that people need to believe they do not live in chaos, that there is a higher purpose."

Doom preaching has drawn backlash following cases such as the 2011 suicide of British teenager Isabel Taylor. "It's an industry that exploits anxiety and can be dangerous," says Bill Hudson, astronomer and editor of the 2012hoax blog.

Even if 2012 passes without incident, don't expect the industry to stop. "Even when a theory is debunked, a core group tends to become even more fervent," says Hudson. "True believers are locked in. You can't reason someone out of a position they didn't reason themselves into."

KIERON MONKS/MWN IN LONDON, U.K.

Mexico. Prophecy injects billions into economy

It may be the end of the world, but certainly not for Mexico's economy. The Mayan prophecy will have attracted more than \$15 billion in tourist revenue by the end of 2012 as millions flock to the country to discover its indigenous civilization.

Mexico's Ministry of Tourism predicts 52 million visitors will have come to Mexico by the end of 2012, many of whom will have visited the Mundo Maya (Quintana Roo, Yucatan and Campeche states).

"Today we are the 10th power for tourism in the world and we are working hard to be in the top five," outgoing President Felipe Calderon said.

Mexico put aside \$10 million for a 2012 project last summer.

AGUSTÍN VELASCO/MWN IN MEXICO

Party like a Mayan

More than 500 Mayan-themed events will have taken place by the end of the year.

- **Festival Mundo Maya.** Folk festival that celebrates Mayan traditions in the Mexican city of Campeche until Dec. 30.
- **The Gran Museo del Mundo Maya.** Located in Mérida, Yucatan's capital, the museum holds precious Mayan artifacts.
- **The End of the Long Count Mayan Calendar.** The 365-step pyramid of Chichén Itzá will host a ceremonial event on Dec. 21.

Obama wants 'real progress, right now'

Tough tone. President invokes 2nd-amendment freedoms and recent spate of killings in proactive address

No excuses

"The fact that this problem is complex can no longer be an excuse for doing nothing."

U.S. President Barack Obama

U.S. President Barack Obama on Wednesday demanded "concrete proposals" on curbing gun violence that he could send to Congress no later than January — an urgent effort to build on the growing political consensus over gun restrictions following last week's massacre of children at a Connecticut school.

It was a tough new tone for the president, whose first four years were largely quiet on the issue amid widespread political reluctance to tackle a powerful gun-rights lobby. But emotions have been high after the gunman in Friday's shooting used a semi-automatic rifle to kill 20 young children and six adults at the

school, after killing his mother at home.

"This time, the words need to lead to action," Obama said. He said he will push legislation "without delay" and urged Congress to hold votes on the bill next year.

"The fact that we can't prevent every act of violence doesn't mean we can't steadily reduce the violence," Obama said.

The policy process Obama was announcing Wednesday was expected to include input from the departments of justice, education and health and human services. The Department of Homeland Security is also expected to play a key role.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Funeral processions continue in Newtown

Firefighters wait for a procession at the main intersection in the village of Newtown, Conn., on Wednesday as they pay respects to Daniel Gerard Barden, one of the students killed during the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting. The small, quiet town has seen gridlock traffic caused by funeral processions, as well as the large number of national and international media covering the aftermath of the shooting. Barden, 7, was killed when the gunman, Adam Lanza, walked into the school last Friday and opened fire, killing 26 people, including 20 children, before killing himself.

JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



U.S. President Barack Obama stands with Vice-President Joe Biden as he makes a statement Wednesday at the White House. Biden, a longtime gun-control advocate, will be spearheading efforts for a new gun policy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Going too far? Bulletproof backpack maker's sales up 300%

Parents reeling in the wake of the Connecticut school shooting are fuelling sales of armoured backpacks for children, as firearms enthusiasts stock up on assault rifles nationwide amid fears of imminent gun control measures.

U.S. armour manufacturer Amendment II's sales of children's backpacks and armoured inserts are up 300 per cent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A children's backpack with an anti-ballistic insert is shot with a 9-mm pistol. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Guns in Canada. Tories repeal gun-show rules

The Conservative government has repealed federal gun-show regulations, on the advice of the same controversial advisory committee the prime minister recently rebuked.

The changes kill a set of rules that were introduced by the Liberals in 1998 but never brought into force after years of deferrals.

The regulations would have required the sponsor of a gun show to notify police and the chief firearms offi-

cer of the province before an event and to ensure the security and safety of the location and the guns.

The government says it consulted Public Safety Minister Vic Toews' Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee, which felt the vast majority already follow the rules.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Stephen Harper rejected the committee's other recommendations to loosen certain gun control laws.

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Philanthropy. Zuckerberg donates \$500M in stock

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said he is giving nearly \$500 million US in stock to a Silicon Valley charity with the aim of funding health and education issues.

Zuckerberg donated 18 million Facebook shares, valued at \$498.8 million US based on their Tuesday closing price. The beneficiary is the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a non-profit that works with donors to allocate their gifts.

This is Zuckerberg's largest donation to date. He pledged \$100 million US in Facebook stock to Newark, N.J., public schools in 2010, before his company went public earlier this year.

In a Facebook post Tuesday, Zuckerberg, 28, said he's "proud of the work" done by the foundation that his Newark donation launched, called

Giving Pledge

- In 2010, Zuckerberg joined Giving Pledge, an effort led by Microsoft Corp. founder Bill Gates and Berkshire Hathaway Inc. CEO Warren Buffett to get the richest people in the U.S. to donate most of their wealth. His wife, Priscilla Chan, joined with him.

Startup: Education, which has helped open charter schools, high schools and others.

With the latest contribution, he added, "we will look for areas in education and health to focus on next." He did not give further details on what plans there may be for funds.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute



DOLLAR
101.20¢
(-0.25¢)

Natural gas: \$3.32 (-10¢)
Dow Jones: 13,251.97 (-98.99)



TSX
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OIL
\$89.98 US (+\$1.58)



GOLD
\$1,667.70 US (-\$3)

GM will spend \$5.5B to buy back shares from U.S. government

The U.S. Treasury plans to sell its remaining stake in General Motors over the next 15 months, allowing the automaker to shed the stigma of being partly owned by the American government.

GM said Wednesday it will spend \$5.5 billion US to buy back 200 million shares of its stock from the Treasury by the end of this year.

And the U.S. government, unlike its Canadian counterpart, has promised to sell its remaining 300 million shares on the open market

Quoted

"This is fundamentally good for the business."

GM Chief Financial Officer Dan Ammann, saying the company has market research showing government ownership has held down sales of its cars and trucks.

starting in January and get out of the company's business within the next 12 to 15 months.

The deal almost certainly means that Washington will lose billions on the \$49.5-billion US bailout that saved GM from being auctioned off in pieces during the fi-

nancial crisis in 2008 and 2009. GM's buyback will cut the Treasury's stake to 19 per cent from 26.5 per cent.

For it to break even, the Treasury would have to sell the remaining 300 million shares for an average of about \$70 US.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Holiday giving

Donations are better than gifts, majority say

A new study suggests almost two-thirds of Canadian adults would rather see a donation to charity on their behalf rather than receive a gift this holiday season. The poll for BMO Harris Private Banking also found that 78 per cent of respondents would consider making that charitable donation rather than giving a traditional gift. The findings are based on two surveys conducted for the bank by Pollara. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oshawa, Ont.

GM shifts Camaro production to Michigan

General Motors is moving production of the next version of its Camaro sports car from its Oshawa operation in Ontario to a plant in Michigan, a move the union says will cost 1,000 jobs at the massive factory east of Toronto. The Canadian Auto Workers estimated the move, which could also affect parts companies, could cost as many as 9,000 jobs in the region after all the spinoff effects are included. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Safety concerns

Hyundai recalls Velosters over brakes, sunroofs

Hyundai is recalling thousands of late-model Velosters in the U.S. and Canada to fix problems involving parking brakes on some models and a sunroof that can shatter and cause injuries on others. The recall involving the sunroof affects cars from the 2012 model year, including 1,593 in Canada. The separate recall to fix parking brakes affects about 1,565 vehicles in Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Penny's end to cost a mint

Chump change. New analysis shows price tag for redeeming one-cent coins in circulation will be about \$7.3M yearly

The demise of Canada's one-cent coin next year will save taxpayers less than expected.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced the impending withdrawal of the penny in last March's budget, saying the government would save \$11 million a year in production costs.

That's because production of each one-cent coin had cost the Royal Canadian Mint about 1.6 cents. But a new analysis of costs shows that redeeming the mountain of circulating pennies beginning Feb. 4 will cost taxpayers about \$7.3 million a year.

The analysis projects a net cost of about \$38.3 million to redeem some six billion pennies expected to be turned in by consumers and financial institutions over the next six years.

Costs include \$53 million expected to be paid out to redeem the face value of the coins, as well as another \$27 million in handling and admin-



Jeff Golby wears an oversized model of a penny on his head as he collects donations of one-cent coins for charity during this past summer's Canada Day festivities in Vancouver. The federal government is phasing out use of the Canadian penny, and the last one was minted this past May. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

istration costs by the Royal Canadian Mint.

Recycling the zinc and copper from melted-down pennies will bring in about \$42.5 million in revenue, leaving government in the red at slightly more than \$38 million.

However, adding the \$11 million in annual savings from not minting any more pennies, which ceased production May 4

By the numbers

35B

Over the last century, the Royal Canadian Mint has stamped an estimated 35 billion pennies from metal plates. The penny remains legal tender even after Feb. 4.

this year, still gives the government annual savings of almost

\$4 million over the expected six-year redemption period.

As the coins are withdrawn, cash transactions will begin to be rounded off to the nearest five cents, but there are no government-imposed rules or policing. Electronic transactions, such as those on debit cards or credit cards would still be registered in cents.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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VEGAS: WHAT HAPPENS HERE IS WRITTEN IN A COLUMN



HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Greetings, world travellers! The U.S. may have a Bible Belt to hold up the britches of the nation, but this week we look at Las Vegas, the city where pants are optional.

This luminous postage stamp in the middle of desert darkness is home to the American stereotype in all its glory. I have enough American friends to know the obvious — that the U.S. is incredibly diverse — but here in Vegas I'm surrounded by large boobs (not literally), large food (I had a crab cake with the same size and heft of a curling stone) and large cars (my "compact" rental could comfortably seat a starting hockey lineup wearing its gear).

After four days here, I have compiled this exhaustive, 350-word guide to Sin City, which contains oodles of useful information for your trip to Las Vegas. (LEGAL DISCLAIMER: This column contains no useful information about anything.)

Las Vegas 101

Las Vegas, literally "Lots of Neon," was founded by itinerant escorts and slot-machine builders in the 1930s, who dreamed of a new America where all the worst jobs in the country could be concentrated in one place. Here you'll find tens of thousands of service workers who must put up with customers in a perpetual "Listen here, friend" state of 1-a.m. drunkenness, and the servers do it all with a smile — a tight, painful smile. You will pity tip more than you ever have in your entire life.

Fortunately, you'll have plenty of opportunities to distract yourself. For instance, while newspaper boxes lie empty in much of the United States, Vegas does a booming media trade with such well-respected publications as Barely Legal, College Girls! and Alt. Who Says Print is Dead?

And did you know that in Las Vegas it's legal to gamble? The only rule is that the gambling must take place in a one-third replica of some other place on Earth.

The casino resorts include:

- The Venetian, which has an exact replica of the Venice canals, right down to the neon-rimmed gondolas, the ice-skating rink and the country-western band playing covers on the hour. Viva Italia!
- New York, New York, which for just \$5 extra will give you a one-third mugging.
- The Bellagio, famous for its fountains, which are a replica of the Eastern European country Bellagistan and its three-times-bigger fountains.
- One shopping mall also looks like a (really) cheap one-third knock-off of the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, so presumably there'll soon be a really earnest but widely disliked resort here soon with the slogan "A World-Class Casino ... Aren't We?"

Vegas could be tempting to dismiss as low-rent or vulgar, but unlike many other cities, it knows exactly what it is. And if you don't like it, well, nobody told you to travel to the middle of the desert.

The city also has many bars and whatnot, but I don't want to get into that because of space restrictions and just in case I ever want to run for U.S. Congress. Mistakes were made. We'll leave it at that.

Because, as the man said, you got to know when to fold 'em, know when to walk away, and know when to run. (That man, of course, was a one-third replica of Kenny Rogers.)



A sign of the times in Las Vegas. JOHN MAZEROLLE/FOR METRO

Takes an eagle eye to spot a hoax



THE CANADIAN PRESS

Class project

World fooled by Montreal video

Relax, world — your baby won't get snatched by an eagle if you visit Montreal.

An online video of the massive bird plucking an infant off the ground has been acknowledged by its creators as a fake.

The admission comes after the video, produced by students at a new-media training school in Montreal, was viewed millions of times Wednesday on YouTube and was the subject of news reports in Canada and internationally. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Other pranks

With the Internet in shock over the eagle/toddler hoax, Metro decided to revisit some other online video spoofs of the past.

- **Lonelygirl15.** This was an early online video blog depicting the life of a fictional teenager named Bree Avery. The series followed the typical angst-ridden teenager whose confessional videos covered things like her favourite stuffed animals or her first kiss. Over time, the show evolved to include a cult and the mysterious disappearance of Bree's parents. In the fall of 2006, fans of the show discovered that Bree was actually a 19-year-old actress named Jessica Rose, and the show was revealed to be fake.
- **Dating site eHarmony cat lady.** A woman named Debbie tearfully confessed her love of felines in what appeared to be a dating-site biography. The site released a statement afterward admitting it was a hoax.
- **Onion iPod charger.** A video purportedly showed a man charging his iPod using an onion and some

Gatorade. It also garnered a lot of press when frustrated Apple enthusiasts plugged their devices into various vegetables.

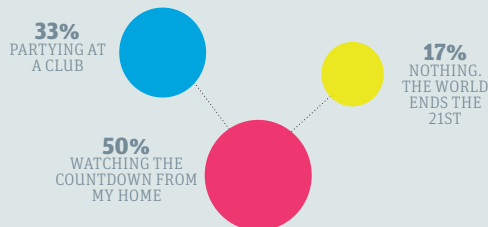
- **Microsoft 'viral marketing' slip and slide.** A video shows a man rocketing down a giant water slide before flying off a ramp at the end and landing in a small wading pool. The video was created using a stuntman and computer animation, and was eventually revealed to be part of a marketing campaign for Microsoft Office.

Watch these videos and more at metronews.ca.



Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What will you be doing for New Year's?



Twitter

@WaywardReporter: They want us to believe the baby-snatching eagle video is a hoax because Quebec is actually training birds to kidnap Alberta oil barons.

@pcloudress: My instagram photos are all of me eating hotdogs or making sure I don't have dry toothpaste on my mouth. Have atter!

@heather_mo: Today I'm going to see if I can do-

nate blood and not tweet about it. D'oh!

@MacPhersonA: I should have remembered to bring earplugs last night. I can't hear a damn thing this morning. #Japandroids

@BSnowsall: Words cannot describe how important @thedanceshack is to me. Today we celebrate 9 years of marriage. Each yr is better than the yr before <3

There's naught but co-operation in this production of King Lear

First play. Saskatoon's newest theatre company tackles one of the greatest tragedies from Shakespeare



BACKSTAGE PASS
Simon Hiatt
saskatoon@metronews.ca

King Lear tells the story of a family torn apart and ultimately destroyed by greed, vanity and selfishness. The company preparing to stage a production of the Shakespearean classic could not be more of a study in contrasts.

"This is really a project of the heart, the people are really passionate about it," said Rob van Meenen, who plays the Fool in the production.

This is the first play staged by Theatre Naught, a new co-operative in the city, and they are opening in a big way. Not only are they tackling one of the most famous works in history, they're doing so with an impressive cast.

"Usually in this type of situation, you'll have maybe four to six people in the cast, this time there's like 15," van Meenen said.

"It's hard to pull off with not a lot of funds and people working various jobs."

"And that's why you have to really want to do the project, which we do," added Jenna-Lee Hyde, who plays Regan.

The scope of the cast is impressive, not just in quantity but also quality. It features several veteran actors, including Kent Allen in the title role.

"Kent is such a strong and committed actor, as we all are. We all wanted the oppor-



Director Philip Adams goes over the script for King Lear with actors Rob van Meenen and Jenna-Lee Hyde. SIMON HIATT/METRO

tunity to step up to the challenge," said director Philip Adams. "We have a company of actors who are totally dedicated to this project, so carpe diem."

Latin sayings and a 400 year-old play aside, those involved say this is a modern production. Although it is faithful to the original script, the themes are as relevant today as they were when it was written in the early 1600s.

"It's an old play, but I think people watching it will see

similar traits in themselves if they had to deal with an aging father who was going mad," said Hyde.

Both Hyde and van Meenen say they've developed a new appreciation for the depth of their characters since rehearsals began. Although Regan and her sister Goneril are typically regarded as evil figures, Hyde believes Lear's two eldest daughters are more complicated.

"I remember the first day Anita Smith, who's playing

Happily ever after?

Although Lear is now regarded as one of the greatest tragedies ever written, it was a little too bleak for some audiences. A "happy ending" version was first staged in 1681 and it remained the standard until 1838. In addition to King Lear surviving, this adaptation also featured his daughter Cordelia going on to live a happy life and marrying Edgar, while the character of the Fool is completely omitted.

Goneril, and I talked about it and went, 'These sisters aren't that bad. What they do is kind of justified. Their dad was being

ridiculous."

King Lear plays at the Backstage Stage at the Remai Arts Centre Dec. 28 through Jan. 12.

2 SCENE

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Internet backlash. The fantastic Mr. Jamie Foxx responds to his critics



Django Unchained has received criticism for its violent scenes. HANDOUT

The Internet is stupid, according to Jamie Foxx. When asked about criticism regarding his new film, Django Unchained, the star is adamant about the fact the online naysayers — who have been critical of the film's frequent use of the N word by both black and white characters — are irrelevant. As long as Oprah approves, everything's basically OK.

"When Oprah saw it, we were like ..." Foxx gives us a terrified stare. "She was like, 'I loved it. It was hard to watch in some spots. I cannot believe I was laughing in some spots at some of these things because you know me, I'm super-black woman.' I'm paraphrasing."

Even director of the film, Quentin Tarantino, found himself susceptible to the online criticism about the film, according to Foxx.

"A couple friends of mine, entertainers, read so much of it until they shut down," Foxx says. "Even Quentin calls me, says, 'Man.' I'm like, 'What? Who gives a f—k. They're on the Internet.' The Internet to me is nothing."

Foxx has an explanation for all the ire, for his movie and on the Internet in general.

"What it comes down to is what I call subliminal jeal-

Quoted

"What it comes down to is what I call subliminal jealousy."

Jamie Foxx
Django Unchained star

ousy," he says. "A lot of people aren't artists. A lot of people aren't special, so all they can do is stand on the outside and just say the loudest, craziest, zaniest sh— in the world. I actually laugh at most of the stuff, but that's all it is."

But the film about a freed slave who becomes a bounty hunter is receiving an equal amount of praise for its unflinchingly violent portrayal of life in the South, just two years before the Civil War. While the brutality is graphic, in a marked contrast, there are plenty of hilarious moments. It's the kind of juxtaposition that is the hallmark of a Tarantino film.

"(Kerry Washington's and my) character were more the grounded characters and then all of these funny things that happen around them, which I think is so necessary, because it gave people some relief," Foxx says.

HEIDI PATALANO/METRO WORLD NEWS



Director Quentin Tarantino made a conscious effort to drop some violence from his recent film. HANDOUT

Tarantino Unchained on Django emotions

New movie. Director talks about how he scaled back parts of his new movie despite wanting to take it further than he ended up doing

LIZ BROWN
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Django Unchained is a movie so brutal, it brought Quentin Tarantino to tears.

In Toronto earlier this month for the Canadian premiere, he recounted how he broke down during an intense scene where a couple of sadistic slave owners whip Broomhilda (played by Kerry Washington), the wife of the film's hero Django.

"I was operating the camera on one of those scenes and (Washington) got to me. The next thing you know I was completely blind because my eyepiece was filling up with tears," he says.

But it was more the context of the brutality than the bloody assault that yanked at Tarantino's emotions.

"That was a rough scene," he admits. "Where we were doing it, when you see that scene, you will see shacks behind her and those were the actual slave quarters where the slaves lived on those plantations. There is blood in that grass and flesh in those trees and we felt the ancestors who once walked there," he says.

The Django Unchained that audiences will view when it heads to theatres on Dec. 25 is a toned-down version of the film Tarantino originally offered the American

Rated R

"I could handle a rougher version of the movie than what exists right now. I have more of a tolerance for it."

Quentin Tarantino

ratings juggernaut MPAA.

"They actually gave an R rating to a rougher version than I ultimately ended up presenting to the public," he says.

It was the director himself who made the call to chill on the violence — even though the gore remains trademark Tarantino and there are plenty of scenes that will churn the stomachs of the strongest viewers.

"I could handle a rougher version of the movie than what exists right now. I have more of a tolerance for it, but I kind of realized that when I watched that version of the movie with audiences, that I was traumatizing them too much. It's just that f—king simple. And I want people to enjoy the movie at the very end of it."

Clocking in at just under three hours, there's plenty to enjoy in Tarantino's take on the spaghetti western and

his homage to Italian director Sergio Corbucci, the man behind the original Django. The film follows Django (Jamie Foxx), a slave-turned-bounty hunter on his quest to free his wife from the evil plantation owner Calvin Candie (Leonardo DiCaprio).

Set in the pre-Civil War South, Tarantino peppers his dialogue with the N word, substitutes literary references for his typical pop culture banter and offers his heroes lots of moral grey areas in which to roam.

"I wasn't so much trying to get a message across (about slavery) as paint a very realistic picture of what America was like at that time and create a world where slavery is the norm," he says.

"Rather than make some soapbox speeches about it, or make points against America, I just wanted to ... take you back to that time and stick you in the middle of it."

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Kristen Stewart ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

K-Stew's sorry for her cheatin' heart

Kristen Stewart knows she's upset more than a few fans over the course of her Twilight tenure — especially since her summer cheating scandal. "I apologize to everyone for making them so angry. It was not my intention," the actress tells Newsweek. "It's not a terrible

thing if you're either loved or hated. But honestly, I don't care because it doesn't keep me from doing my s—." And as for the hugely successful vampire franchise coming to an end? "The only relief when it comes to Twilight is that the story is done," she admits.



Angelina Jolie

Angelina Jolie dusts off her director's hat

Angelina Jolie is set to return to the director's chair, choosing to adapt Laura Hillenbrand's brilliant book and I was so moved by Louis Zamperini's heroic story. I immediately began to fight for the opportunity to make this film," Jolie says. Her directorial debut, In the Land of Blood and Honey, focused on the Bosnian war.

of the war in a Japanese prison camp. "I read Laura Hillenbrand's brilliant book and I was so moved by Louis Zamperini's heroic story. I immediately began to fight for the opportunity to make this film," Jolie says. Her directorial debut, In the Land of Blood and Honey, focused on the Bosnian war.

Twitter



@JLo
HOME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



@ralphmacchio
Guess it's time to join the holiday shopping. Just not a fan of the obligatory equal or better gift mandates. #scrooging



@TheRealRoseanne
Dear World: It's been nice knowing U,4 the most part altho ur stupidity brings about the end of life-12-21-12, at least we laughed alot! bye



@JonahHill
Instagram, you were my favorite app and you stabbed me in the back. I feel like I married you and you just slept with my best friend.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



The year of the lost locks — femmes who took it all off



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

No more long locks for these ladies. Whether it was for a role of a lifetime or to bring awareness to a cause, here are some haircuts that turned heads this year.

Who: Anne Hathaway
Why: The actress had to shave her head for her role as the prostitute Fantine in Les Misérables.
Current length: Short. "I love the short-haired lifestyle," Hathaway says in the December issue of Vogue. "I'm turning 30, and — I hope this isn't obnoxious to say — I feel prettier, and much more myself. I guess I just feel much more satisfied with less now."

Who: Charlize Theron
Why: Theron's shaved head is courtesy of her latest film role, Mad Max: Fury Road.
Current length: Still shaved.

Who: Kellie Pickler
Why: The American Idol singer got a buzz cut to support her best friend, Summer Miller, who had to undergo chemotherapy while being treated for breast cancer.
Current length: Growing out a tad. "We made a pact from the get-go that we would shave our heads together," Pickler told E! Online about sharing the look with her best pal. "And we did."

Who: Miley Cyrus
Why: Who knows. Probably because she's aching to be seen as more "edgy" than her Disney roots.
Current length: It's not so much talking about length as it is talking about the crazy. As she wrote on Twitter when she originally lost the locks, "Never felt more me in my whole life."



Kate Middleton

Kate Middleton determined to make the Royal Christmas

Despite her recent pregnancy-related hospitalization, Kate Middleton is vowing to put on a brave face for the Royal Family's Christmas dinner, according to Radar Online. "Kate doesn't want to disappoint the Queen, nor does she want to skip on her duties," a source says. "She feels she is obliged to appear at the annual Christmas dinner

and doesn't want to let anyone down." Her husband, though, is offering an out. "William has his concerns though that she won't be up to it, and told Kate she shouldn't worry if she feels too sick to attend and that no one will judge her negatively," the source adds. "But Kate isn't having it and is determined to be at the dinner, smiling as always."

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CARLY RAE

The Call Me Maybe singer breaks down the craft of the smudge-free make-out, her Ryan Gosling crush and why she'd never play spin the bottle with Justin Bieber

HOW TO KISS

ROMINA
MCGUINNESS
life@metronews.ca

As she promotes her new album, *Kiss*, we asked Carly Rae Jepsen about makeup application and the art of making out, because we figured she must be an expert at it by now.

Putting the makeup on...

"For a press event, I need one hour for my hair and makeup. But if it's just for me, I literally need 10 minutes. My grooming process has become shorter and shorter in my off-days. I like getting glammed up for the red carpet, but then being able to wear no makeup and be in flannel for a camping weekend. I'm like, 'Take me as I am.'"

The spin the bottle test. Ryan Gosling — yay or nay?

"I've always had a thing for Ryan Gosling. I don't think I'm alone in that! There's not one movie of his that I haven't

Video

Watch Carly Rae Jepsen give a tutorial on how to kiss without smudging your lipstick on metronews.ca



liked. It's his personality. I've never met him, but the characters he plays are very charming."

And Justin Bieber?

"He's my friend, that would be too strange. We would never play that game together!"

On making out

"I've always had fairly pleasant experiences, but not, like, a lot of them! Kissing is all about how you feel about the person. If you have no chemistry, it can be totally meaningless. But if you have the right amount of flare, then it can be a really magical moment. I don't know if I'm a good kisser. I hope so."

Inside her makeup bag

Carly Rae Jepsen opens up her purse to show us the products she can't get through the day without

MAC Lipstick in Lady Danger



"I'm obsessed with this. It's a statement piece. It's kind of like an orangey red, but the perfect shade of it. It's a good pick-me-up if you have to get dolled up fast."

Marc Jacobs Daisy Eau de Parfum

"I'm really picky with scents. I can get sick of them after a day or two. Daisy has been one that I've really hung on to. It's not too domineering, really pleasant and kind of subtle. It feels really fresh every time I spray it on."



MAC Eye Kohl in Teddy, Giorgio Armani mascara and Maestro Fusion foundation

"If I'm doing my own makeup, and it's not for press, these are the three things I always use."



Holiday party skin savers

These are two products to turn to when the party starts showing up on your face

KENYA HUNT
life@metronews.ca

La Prairie Advanced Marine Biology Day Cream SPF 20

\$135, laprairie.com. Grab this potent face cream to recover from all of that dehydrating holiday drinking.



Lancôme Visionnaire Advanced Skin Corrector

\$60, lancome.com. This is the serum to fill out those forehead creases that pop up after too many nights spent squinting in dark clubs.



Classic gifts for the pickiest decorator

Imagine having the task of buying a Christmas present for someone who not only has it all, but seemingly has great taste and knows what they like. That's what my family and friends run up against every Christmas — trying to buy me something I don't already have or will like enough to have in my home. Truth be told, designers are probably the simplest to buy for, as long as you don't give short-lived trend items. By keeping the choices classic and useful, your gift will be a hit with your favourite design aficionado. Here's a few that topped my wish list this holiday season. Some cost as little as a dollar and some hundreds. I'd love all of them under my tree this year, Mr. Santa...



The fuzzy feeling

Whether it be real or faux, a fur throw slung over a chair or end of the bed has always made a luxurious statement in the home. From year to year the fur colours change (this year it's pale browns and greys), and there is always an animal print in fashion. Take a cue from designer Brian Gluckstein and his collection of throws (with a handsome leather carry handle) and live like a designer. Faux Fur Throw, \$149, thebay.com.

Clink, clink on the cheap

Nothing breaks the mood of a fancy party than having to use the wrong glass when toasting a celebration. And trust me, using a wine glass to serve champagne does not impress anyone who is style conscious. I like to stock up on glass ones and have plenty of them. My go-to store is the Dollarama. Glass Champagne Flutes, \$1, dollarama.com.



A simple touch

A decorative box can sit handsomely on a front foyer table to hold keys, coins and cards, or on a dresser to hold jewelry, pens and keepsakes in the bedroom. The Agresti Gold Leaf Box adds simple lines and a subtle gold shine to decorate any table or dresser top. \$795, birks.com.



Crystal accent

The classic round shape of the rose bowl (or goldfish bowl, as it's commonly called) is perfect for flowers. Three rose bowls in a row creates a modern appeal down the centre of a dining table or on a mantel. Tiffany's Floral Vine Rose Bowl holds a dozen red roses, a candle and more, \$330, tiffany.ca.



Light it up

There is no decorator out there that doesn't like candles, and even better are a collection of candles on a tray. It's the perfect centerpiece on a dining table, coffee table or in the bath. Inexpensive candles mean filling the tray without breaking the bank. Glade Winter Collection Candles, \$5.50 each, glade.ca.

Charger chic

Decorate the simplest of china by adding a layer of silver underneath. Charger plates create instant shimmer and luxury to a dinner party table. Add cool silver shine and the natural imprint of wood-grain with charger plates from President's Choice, \$10 for 4, loblaws.ca.



DESIGN CENTRE
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A festive feast with a small footprint?

Can my festive holiday feast also have a small footprint?



QUEEN OF GREEN
Toviah Paglaro
green@metronews.ca

The holiday season is about family, community, celebration ... and food! Delicious food. The house is filled with rich, tantalizing scents. For the youngest at the table, this is the stuff that memories are made of. The rest of us are carried back to our own childhoods and find ourselves as giddy as the little ones.

The most festive of holiday feasts are both delicious and sustainable — a joyous combination that's within everybody's reach. And while that perfect balance is something of considerable debate, a few simple steps will elevate your table to one worthy of the love you bear for friends and family.

Step #1: Waste not, want not

Canadians produce an estimated \$27 billion in food waste every year, and half of that is household food. That's not festive! Cook an appropriate amount of food for the size of your gathering, and plan for the leftovers.

Step #2: Cook from scratch



Create a meal that is abundantly eco-friendly. ISTOCK PHOTO

The closer you start to raw ingredients, the more nutritious and the more sustainable your meal is likely to be. Before you reach for the BPA-lined can of cranberry sauce or the packet of gravy mix, ask yourself, "Can I make this from scratch?" The answer is a resounding yes.

Step #3: Buy local and organic

Organic food does cost more. That's because it's more expensive to produce than conventional alternatives, which

we often subsidize with environmental sacrifice and long-term health costs. But since you're now committed to not wasting any food, and to cooking from scratch, you're going to save so much money you can probably offset the cost of buying more sustainable options.

Step #4: Avoid serving GMO

Unlike most of Europe, Canada does not require labelling of foods containing genetically modified ingredients. Certified organic foods cannot, by definition, contain GMO ingredients. Outside of those parameters, buy carefully. The good news for your holiday feast is that there are no GMO varieties of wheat, potatoes or root vegetables on the market. However, beware of conventional canola oil or soy derivatives. In the last 10 years, genetically modified varieties of both these popular processed food ingredients have all but taken over. Organizations like The Non-GMO Project have resources to help you make informed choices.

Step #5: Savour the goodness

You've poured time, energy and love into creating a meal that brings family and friends together. Enjoy it!

The butler responds

To be or not to be — on your lap: The napkin, examined



CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

When travelling by train or plane and eating while in motion, does the rule change for the placement of the dinner napkin or must it always be on your lap?

Mr. Curious

Dear Mr. Curious:

Well this is such a great question because, technically, the napkin is only supposed to ever go in one place — your lap. However, with every rule, one must always know the correct way of when and how to break it. Yes, while in motion on a train or airplane, the napkin can absolutely and unequivocally go from your lap to the dreaded shirt collar. Although many would gasp at



Technically, the only place a napkin should go is on your lap. ISTOCK PHOTO

seeing such a thing, you can tuck a dinner napkin in your shirt collar at any table when in motion. You are, after all, trying to stay clean.

In fact, in the golden era of plane travel,

the dinner napkin used to have a small button hole in one of the four corners of the napkin so that you could do just that and hang your napkin to avoid spills and stains while eating in motion.

Is this the last supper?

A bite of Belize. This country was once home to the ancient Mayans, who are said to have predicted the end of the world on Dec. 21. If that's the case, go out with a full stomach

"Cochinita (small pig) pibil (to bury) literally translates to 'buried whole suckling pig,'" write the editors of *Flavors of Belize* magazine in their book of the same name about this recipe.

"Traditionally, you should marinate the pork in the same manner but cook the whole pig wrapped in banana leaves underground with fire wood and hot stones for hours until tender."

This recipe by Chef Sean Kuylen can also be cooked in a slow cooker, on low for 12 hours or on high for six hours.

1. Preheat oven to 325 F. Pierce pork with knife and insert gar-

Ingredients

- 5 lbs pork shoulder or pork leg, bone in
- 1 head garlic
- 1 1/2 tbsp salt
- 2 tsp cumin
- 1 1/2 tsp allspice
- 1 1/2 tbsp freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp red recado, diluted to form paste
- 1/2 cup sour orange juice
- Smoked banana leaves
- 2 medium onions, quartered
- 2 medium green bell peppers, quartered
- 1/4 cup cilantro, minced

lic cloves all around.

2. Mix all dry ingredients; combine with recado, diluted in orange juice and coat pork. Marinate overnight.

3. Place pork in large roasting pan lined with banana leaves. Add onion, sweet pepper and place cilantro on top. Pour remaining marinade liquid and add more water to pan to approximately 1 inch

Pureco Cochinita Pibil



This recipe serves eight. MATT ARMENDARIZ FOR FLAVORS OF BELIZE: THE COOKBOOK

high. Cover with banana leaves and seal tightly with foil.

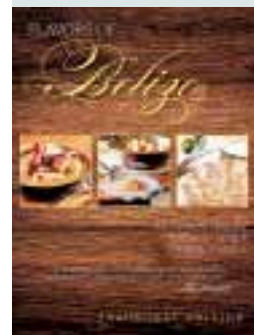
4. Bake for 5 hours or until

meat is very tender and starts to release from the bone. Shred pork and serve on warm corn tortillas topped with pickled

red onions or habanero salsa. **ALL RECIPES ON THIS PAGE FROM FLAVORS OF BELIZE: THE COOKBOOK (MCNAB PUBLISHING LTD)**

Cookbook of the Week

Dine like the Mayans



Published by McNab Publishing Ltd., *Flavors of Belize* includes a selection of soups and starters, main dishes and delectable desserts. Additionally, this cookbook hosts a variety of submissions from some of Belize's most renowned chefs and cooks. Each section opens with a brief explanation of the different cultures, whose history acts as the foundation of Belizean heritage. This colourful gastronomic guide delivers more than 120 recipes spanning cultures including the Maya, British, Mestizo, Creole, Chinese, Lebanese, Garifuna and more.

Panades: A Belizean snack

"Locally, cooks use red recado to differentiate between panades fillings. The red colour from the recado paste represents the fish, and the plain masa is for the beans," write the editors of *Flavors of Belize* magazine in their cookbook. "(The Panades may be filled) with refried beans. When using refried beans, eliminate red recado paste from the recipe."

1. For Fish Filling: place fish, epazote and cilantro in a pot with enough water to cover, boil until fish is cooked, approximately 15 minutes. Remove fish from pot and cool. Flake fish, combine with salt, black pepper, onion and garlic.

2. For Recado Paste: Grind annatto seeds, allspice seeds and whole cloves to a powder. Combine annatto powder with sour orange and 1/4 cup of vinegar and process to a paste. May add more sour orange and vinegar if necessary to achieve a thick paste. Store in refrigerator.

3. For Panades, mix masa, baking powder and salt. Dissolve recado in water and add to masa until soft and masa holds. If using Masa harina, follow instructions on package. Form into 1 1/2 inch balls.



This recipe serves 4 to 6. MATT ARMENDARIZ FOR FLAVORS OF BELIZE: THE COOKBOOK

4. Place ball of masa in between 2 sheets of parchment paper in the centre of a tortilla press and flatten. Place approximately 1 teaspoon of fish in the middle and fold over to form a patty, press edges to seal. Do not overfill.

5. Heat oil in a large frying

pan and fry Panades until it floats, turn and cook until slightly crisp. Serve with hot pepper onion sauce.

6. For Hot Pepper Onion Sauce: Combine all ingredients and marinate for 2 hours or overnight. Will keep for several weeks in refrigerator.

Ingredients

Fish Filling

- 2 lbs fish file
- 6 epazote leaves, minced
- 2 to 3 tbsp cilantro leaves, minced
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp onion, minced
- 1 tsp garlic, minced

Red Recado Paste

- 5 tbsp annatto seeds
- 6 to 7 allspice seeds
- 1/4 tsp whole cloves
- 1/4 cup sour orange
- 1/4 cup vinegar

Panades

- 1 1/2 lbs corn masa or 2 cups Quaker Masa Harina de Maiz mix
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp red recado paste (see above)
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 1/2 cups fish file, cooked, flaked
- Vegetable oil for frying

Hot Pepper Onion Sauce

- 2 cups onions, minced
- 2 habanero peppers, de-seeded, sliced
- 2 tbsp cilantro, minced
- 6 allspice seeds
- 1 1/2 cups vinegar
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 tsp salt

Dukunu. In ancient Mayan culture, corn was considered a gift from gods



Cooked pork can be added after placing the mixture in corn husk. MATT ARMENDARIZ FOR FLAVORS OF BELIZE: THE COOKBOOK

"In ancient Maya culture, corn represented much more than a grain used for food," write the editors of *Flavors of Belize* magazine in their cookbook. "Corn was also considered a gift from the gods and cultivating it was a sacred duty. In fact, according to the sacred book of the Maya, (Popol Vuh), the gods created humans from corn."

1. Peel corn, reserving clean husks. Purée corn with water in a blender. Pour into a large mixing bowl and mix with the remaining ingredients.

2. Place 1/4 to 1/3 cup mixture onto the centre of each reserved husk. Bring sides together, making sure to overlap

and fold pointed end upward. Secure each with string.

3. Place 2 to 3 inches of water in sauce pot, bring to a boil and arrange dukunu folded side down. Boil for about 1/2 hour. Remove from husk and serve.

Ingredients

- 10 to 12 green corn on the cob, shucked
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup coconut milk
- 2 tbsp butter, melted
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 2 tsp sugar
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

CFL

Riders looks inside Saskatchewan for free agents

The Saskatchewan Roughriders announced Wednesday that three Saskatchewan-based free agents would be joining the team.

Defensive lineman Ryan Wellman joins the team after three seasons with the Regina Rams.

Defensive back Bryce McCall becomes a Rider after spending the last four years with the University of Saskatchewan.

And wide receiver Kolten Solomon joins after spending last season with the Regina Rams.

METRO

CFL

Argos release safety Boulay

The off-season house cleaning continues for the Toronto Argonauts.

The Argonauts released veteran safety Etienne Boulay on Wednesday, one day after cutting loose veteran kicker/punter Noel Prefontaine.

Boulay, a Montreal native, joined the Argos in the off-season and started 13 regular-season games for the club, registering five special-teams tackles.

He played in all three of Toronto's post-season games, including the Argos' 35-22 win over Calgary in the 100th Grey Cup. He made one special-teams tackle and one defensive tackle in the championship match.

Prior to joining the Argos, Boulay spent six seasons with the Montreal Alouettes, winning East Division outstanding rookie honours in 2006.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Tim Tebow, left, was passed up for the New York Jets' starting quarterback job for the final two games of the NFL regular season. RICK SCHULTZ/GETTY IMAGES

Tebow talk turns to possible CFL sojourn

Heading north? Speculation swirls around popular QB trying Canadian game

To Tebow or not to Tebow.

That's the CFL question.

With the New York Jets electing to bypass quarterback Tim Tebow as starter Mark Sanchez's replacement for Sunday's game, there have been plenty of speculation and rumours out of the NFL that he might just leave and try tossing footballs next season in Canada.

Apparently, his negotiation rights are now held by the Montreal Alouettes, who

Ryan's regret

Jets coach Rex Ryan acknowledged Wednesday that he had higher expectations for the seldom-used Tebow in the Jets' wildcat-style offence. And so did the NFL's most popular and maligned backup quarterback.

- "For some reason, it hasn't panned out to my expectations and maybe Tim's either," Ryan said. "Defences have attacked us a little differently. Maybe that's a

contributing factor to it."

- Ryan would not go into detail about why he chose Greg McElroy over Tebow to replace the struggling Mark Sanchez as the team's starting quarterback with two games left in a lost season.
- "Obviously, I'm a little disappointed," Tebow said. "You try to handle it the best you can." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

just signed Anthony Calvillo, 40, to a new two-year contract. The Hamilton Tiger-Cats used to have the former first-round

NFL draft pick's negotiating rights but dropped him during the season.

Negotiating rights are secret

in the CFL so it's even speculative that Montreal has them right now. But sources suggest they do.

Several CFL teams need a quarterback, Winnipeg for one. But the former Florida Gator would have to take a massive pay cut to play north of the 49th Parallel. Even if the Jets release him, chances are some other NFL team will take a shot at him.

Should Tebow decide to come north and develop into a decent quarterback without the pressure — or the circus — in the States, he could always return to the NFL some day.

Tebow hasn't started a single game since being traded to the Jets from Denver in the off-season. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Eskimos lock up Sherritt until 2015



Edmonton Eskimo J.C. Sherritt holds the CFL's most outstanding defensive player award in November in Toronto. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Relegated to the practice roster after his first pre-season, J.C. Sherritt looked like he might become an afterthought with the Edmonton Eskimos.

Two seasons and 202 bone-crunching tackles later, Sherritt is not only the cornerstone of the Eskimos' defence, he's the top defensive player in the CFL.

The Eskimos rewarded Sherritt for his stellar play Wednesday, signing the five-foot-nine, 218-pound linebacker to a contract extension through the 2015 season.

Sherritt was the overwhelming choice for the CFL's outstanding defensive player award, earning 49 of the 57

Quoted

"Last year was obviously a season of highs and lows, and one of the highs was definitely the play of J.C. Sherritt."

Eskimos general manager Ed Hervey

votes cast by CFL coaches and members of the Football Reporters of Canada.

His stats backed up the praise. He made a record-setting 130 defensive tackles in 2012. He also recorded three sacks, three special-teams tackles, three forced fumbles, one fumble

recovery, two knockdowns and five interceptions for 56 yards. A nagging ankle injury kept him out of the CFL East semifinal with Toronto, which the Argonauts won 42-26.

"He is an extremely talented player who has character beyond reproach," Eskimos head coach Kavis Reed said in a statement. "He is a core player who will help us in our championship quest."

Securing Sherritt to a contract was a priority for the Eskimos, who have also extended the contracts of kicker Grant Shaw, linebacker T.J. Hill and offensive lineman Brian Ramsay over the last couple of weeks. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Angels swing deal with rival Mariners for Vargas

The Los Angeles Angels got the pitching depth they wanted. The Seattle Mariners got the power-bat they so desperately needed.

Two foes in the AL West found a way to work together Wednesday when the Angels traded switch-hitting slugger Kendrys Morales to the Seattle Mariners for left-hander Jason Vargas, filling needs for both teams.

The 29-year-old Morales became expendable after the Angels agreed to a deal last week with free-agent slugger Josh Hamilton. The Angels had been looking for a pitcher after losing Zack Greinke and Dan Haren to free agency and trading Ervin Santana.

The Angels added a left-hander to their rotation, while Seattle got a hitter that can instantly take a spot in the middle of its order.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Authorities finish investigation into Belcher shooting

Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Jovan Belcher apparently was worried he would lose his baby and money to his longtime girlfriend before fatally shooting her and killing himself, according to newly released police reports.

Belcher also complained about Kasandra Perkins, the mother of the couple's three-month-old daughter, in conversations and text messages sent to a woman he was dating on the side, the reports show.

In one text message from late October or early November, Belcher wrote he "would shoot" Perkins "if she didn't leave him alone." The girlfriend told police that Belcher said "his child's mother threatened to take all his money and his child if they split up."

Belcher shot Perkins multiple times in their home on Dec. 1 and then drove to team headquarters, where he killed himself in front of his coach and general manager.

The Jackson County prosecutor's office reviewed the police reports, which first were obtained by the Kansas City Star, before closing the case Friday. It formally ruled the deaths of Belcher, 25, and Perkins, 22, a murder-suicide.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHLPA waiting on NHL to resume talks: Fehr

Lockout. League not sure progress can be made at this point

Donald Fehr says the NHL Players' Association is ready to get back to the bargaining table at any moment.

He's just waiting for the NHL to feel the same way.

"(We aren't talking) because the owners have not indicated a desire to resume," the NHLPA's executive director said Wednesday night before a charity game. "We've indicated any number of times that we're

Quoted

"We don't have anything new to say right now."

NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly on the status of negotiations. Daly created a stir earlier in the day when he made an appearance on CBC's *HNIC* Radio and was asked to give a simple yes or no answer on whether there would be an agreement in time to save the season. He responded "yes."

willing to resume when they are (and) we're willing to resume without preconditions.

"So we're waiting to hear back from them."

The sides haven't negotiated with one another since Dec. 6 in New York, when talks broke down. They also met with a U.S. federal mediator for two days in New Jersey last week and re-

ported no progress.

From the NHL's perspective, negotiations should only resume once there is something new to say.

"I don't think either party is refusing a meeting," deputy commissioner Bill Daly said in an email. "But unless there is an indication one side or the other is prepared to move or

has a new idea to move the process forward — and so far neither side has indicated — I am not sure what we would do at the meeting.

"What is the agenda? Who is directing the conversation?"

Fehr indicated that he liked the idea put forward by Winnipeg Jets defenceman Ron Hainsey that the same parties who met two weeks ago return to the bargaining table, plus himself and commissioner Gary Bettman. Progress was made during a session that included four new owners and a number of players, including Sidney Crosby.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Taking back Stanley?

Reclaiming cup not on GG's mind

The Stanley Cup may have been created by the office of Canada's Governor General — but don't count on the current office-holder to take the trophy back.

Gov. Gen. David Johnston chuckled when asked whether the prospect of a cancelled season could prompt him to reclaim Canada's beloved relic.

Edmonton MP Brent Rathgeber has suggested the cup could be awarded in a competition to determine the best non-pro team in Canada. Also, one of the cup's full-time guardians recently said it would be "exciting" to have a mock tournament if the season is cancelled. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Canadians have strong showing at French World Cup event

Armin Niederer of Switzerland, third from left, performs during the final race on his way to winning a men's ski cross World Cup event ahead of Calgary's Brady Leman, right, American Joe Swenson, second from left, and London, Ont.'s David Duncan on Wednesday in Val Thorens, France. Leman finished behind Niederer for his second silver medal of the season and Duncan couldn't quite catch Swenson for bronze. **LAURENT CIPRIANI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

On the rise: Raptors get 4th straight win

DeMar DeRozan had 23 points and Jose Calderon added 17 assists Wednesday as the Toronto Raptors won their fourth straight for the first time in over two years with a 97-91 victory over the Detroit Pistons.

Emerging swingman Alan Anderson, who has 58 points over his last three games, finished with 16 points for the Raptors (8-19). The last time Toronto won four in a row was Nov. 17-24, 2010.

Greg Monroe had a career-high 35 points and 10 rebounds for Detroit (7-21), which has dropped six in a row and is a paltry 2-13 on the road this season.

Wednesday's game

97	91
Raptors	Pistons

The Raptors came into the fourth quarter leading 73-71, but opened up a seven-point lead on a clutch three by Anderson and an Amir Johnson hook shot. Anderson had fans at Air Canada Centre roaring when he connected from downtown twice midway

through the quarter to make it 88-77.

Detroit clawed back to make it a four-point game with under three minutes left, but Calderon hit a three of his own to get the lead back up to seven. Toronto ran down the clock with long possessions and timely rebounds to seal the win and put the Raptors over .500 at home this season (6-5).

Calderon kept the offence moving in the third, finding DeRozan and Ed Davis, who combined on 12 points to give Toronto a 63-60 lead midway through the quarter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Raptors forward Mickael Pietrus drives to the hoop between Detroit Pistons centre Greg Monroe, left, and power forward Jason Maxiell on Wednesday in Toronto. **FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20
The Sun joins Mars, your ruler, in the career area of your chart tomorrow, so you will be even more ambitious than usual. Impress those in positions of power but try not to do so at the expense of other people.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21
You are up for whatever life throws at you and when the Sun changes signs tomorrow, there will be no holding you back. However, after your initial burst of enthusiasm you will need to settle into a steady routine.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21
It may at times seem as if the answers are "out there" waiting to be discovered but in reality they are "in here", where facts mean less than feelings. Take time to listen to your inner voice today — it has lots to tell you.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23
Don't worry too much if you have not been getting along with a certain person of late because you will soon be friends again. You will also find that your opinions were not nearly as far apart as you had previously believed.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23
You need to get serious about your work and your health. Because everything has been going so well for you of late, you have tended to overlook certain things but now it's time to take care of those boring details.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Do something creative, something that gets you noticed. Everyone was born with an ability of some kind, so focus on your own special talent and make it work for you on all kinds of levels, including financial.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The next few days are going to be of added importance for family matters. You will certainly find it easier than usual to see the world through loved ones' eyes. Better understanding makes compromise possible.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
However hard you try, you will not change another person's viewpoint. And however hard they try, they will not change yours. So what can you do? You can steer clear of each other as much as is humanely possible.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Over the next few days, your thoughts will turn to what you own, what you earn and, more importantly, how you can start earning more. Get rid of a dozen ideas but the one that remains will make you rich.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The old solar year is coming to an end and when the Sun moves into your birth sign tomorrow, a new cycle will begin. After the disappointments of recent weeks, it will feel wonderful to know that all things are possible.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Get away for a while. Leave the chaos and confusion of everyday life far behind. Before you go, let someone know that you do not exist to cater to their every whim. You have needs too and they must be satisfied.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20
Recent cosmic activity has made it possible for you to move up in your work or career. Now you must decide if you are happy with what you accomplished or if you want to go higher still. It's your choice.
SALLY BROMPTON

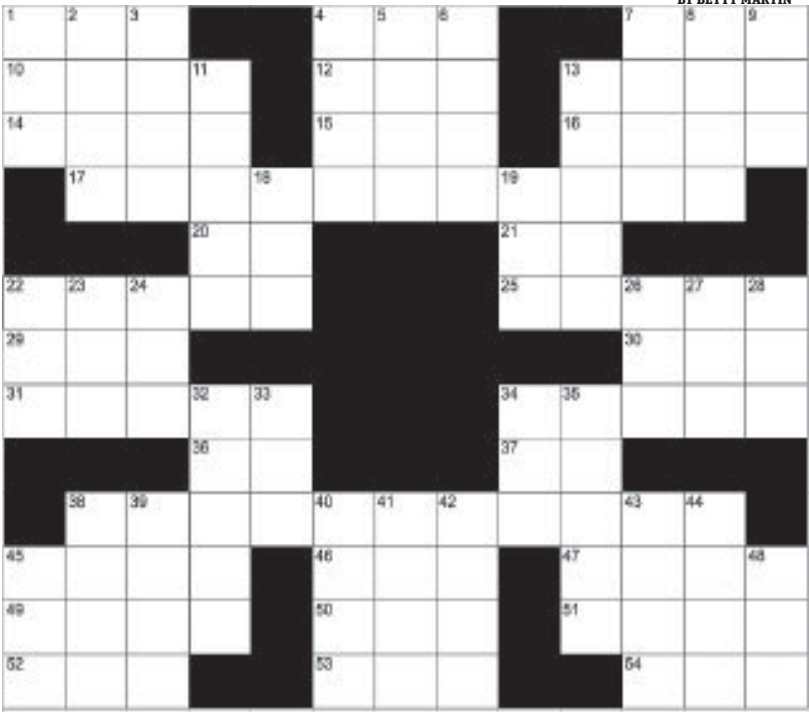
Crossword

Across

- Vestment
- Keyboard key
- Nickname of comedian Bill
- One not to be trusted
- Havana greeting
- 70's Show
- Thin Man's dog
- Soup container
- Rodents
- Stargazers
- Movie alien
- Egyptian Sun God
- Touched by an Angel actress
- Carry in inventory
- Pester
- "Norma —"
- Tempest
- Beautify
- Battery sz.
- Head out
- Ethel's partner in hijinks
- Pitch
- Gobbled up
- Tiny amount
- Police activity
- Cartoon pooch
- Barbershop sound
- Hill dweller
- CPR specialist
- Opposite of WNW

Down

- Chicken — King
- One of The Simpsons
- Belfry inhabitants
- Filled tortilla
- Star of M*A*S*H
- U2's lead vocalist
- Cinders
- Bran source
- Ave. crossers
- Hotel fees
- Halloween indulgence



BY BETTY MARTIN

- Road abbr.
- Robinson or Doubtfire
- Found in the ER
- Have a bite
- Self
- Gold, to Juan
- My Mother the —
- Olin of thirtysomething
- Participated in a marathon
- Spring mo.

- Turkish title
- Roberts of Everybody Loves Raymond
- Bank transaction
- Kind of price
- Steak order
- Ledger entry
- Penny
- Completed
- Soul singer Redding

- La-la lead-in
- Mimic

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers
metronews.ca/answers.



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	5	9	3	4	7	1	2	8
3	8	4	2	1	5	9	7	6
1	7	2	9	8	6	3	5	4
5	3	7	1	6	9	8	4	2
9	4	1	5	2	8	6	3	7
8	2	6	4	7	3	5	1	9
7	8	5	6	3	2	4	8	1
2	1	3	8	9	4	7	6	5
4	6	8	7	5	1	2	9	3



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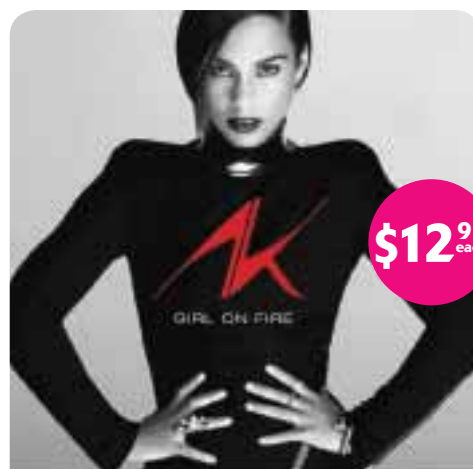
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